Anne Warren Weston to Elizabeth Pease. (Incomplete.)

Weymouth. February 25. 1846

GARRISON MSS.

My Dear Friend,

19 How sorry I am that I was prevented from writing to you by the last Steamer. Then I was fresh from the scenes of the Fair & Annual Meeting and might ever have anticipated the Liberator & been the fortunate person who announced our success in Faneuil Hall. I trembled a little as I read your last letter, for you had great faith that all would go well, while at that very time I could not help whistling (mentally) to keep up my courage. About that very time I had fallen in with Mr Philbrick the Treasurer of the Mayo Society, a most excellent man & given to prophesyings of a most lugubrious character. He told me in strict confidence, that it was his private mind that firstly it would be utterly impossible to warm Faneuil Hall properly; secondly that we never could obtain articles enough to fill it, and thirdly that there would abound who would desire whatever there was. Not very well pleased with his little encouraging ways, I answered a la Jack that "what was written was written" or as the Virginia negroes say "it tis as it tis and it cant be no tizzer" Faneuil Hall is to be the place, and we must go forward. After all these private perturbations you may judge how beautiful it was to have what gainsaying foes and fearful friends alike were obliged to call perfect success. But it is purchased with great personal fatigues & exertions such as people who get up other Fairs can never comprehend. When I read at Weymouth Mary's account of the Fair &c in the Liberator, I wrote to her that I was rejoiced to hear the had had such a pleasant, charming time, that every thing was so perfectly comfortable &c, for having been behind the scenes so much I had nearly retained no vivid remembrance of the wrong side those I had almost forgotten how beautiful the colours & flowers were in the right.

Many of the sufferings & perplexities of a Fair are not herein
to be sure; but they are none the less hard to
borne, consisting of rising before light pitch the thermometer
at zero, hurrying to the hall pitch on breakfast, doing
a great deal of unexpressible work after you get that then
that money came you are to be done, then to stand like
10 at night smiling & looking cheerful, explaining first
that a shawl is so large as to equal a bed cover in size
& yet so small as to almost pull through a ring, & then
that these our shoes are sufficiently stout to wear a great
while & yet not at all liable to the charge of clumsiness that
the carping purchaser is about to prefer against them, to
exhibit every thing pretty and desirable on your table to a
pro slavery millionaire who very graciously thanks you for
your politeness and says she will take one of those nice little
kettle holders for nine pence, to turn & over the whole
table to find something that shall be "very pretty &
very cheap" that somebody has had commission to purchase,
to have little black children who never saw any thing so
handsome before looking wishfully at the Rev Mr James'
wax doll that opens & shuts her eyes, or at Her Gracious Majesty
in a velvet train, both valued @ $10, & then demanding in her be
sixpence if they could not have her for a quarter of a dollar,
adding "it's all I've got." & finally after sundry other experiences
that time would fail to exhibit, go home, & is tired that
nothing would make you ever again were it not for the
thought that the ladies from the country towns staying with
you, probably perfect strangers till they arrived with your
their articles, really require hospitality & kindness at your hands,
and if you do not hear with the most attentive & unexpressing
interest every particular relative to their conflicts with their pro
slavery minister, and all the motives which induced every
neighbour they had to give or withhold their help, you are in
danger of their thinking "how I dont know but there is something
in what Rogers says that these Boston people are anti-wise"

"These are plern conflicto, yet they pass unknown to fame."
But let me dwell no longer on these minor miseries that
wait on the A. S. Cause. Keep it inviolably secret that I ever
told you there were any. — One thing will come in opportunely
here. It was very good of the Dublin & Glasgow people to send their
articles as they did. I am inclined to think it saved our lives. Had
we not had some leisure in looking them over, we never could
have got through the fatigue. Do not regret that you made
some of your gifts to Philadelphia; the foreign friends were so good,
that we were much better off than the friends there, & we had
moreover some of your knit articles of the year before last, the
baby shawl, dear, you may remember, & that was sold this
year for $15. without any difficulty. I have learned not to be
discouraged in the least when articles do not sell the first year.
They usually do the second. You recollect pretty little mats of
bright worsted that you have sent at different times. Those sold
well this year, & we have few or none left. I think they might do
well next. White ones do not sell so well. The aprons from
Glasgow, (I believe) made of a silk & woolen material sold wonder-
fully well. Not one of the Ladies' Aprons was left. We could
have sold many more than we had. It is almost impossible
to judge of one year by the experience of another. For instance,
we have generally had difficulty in selling handsome
screens at their full value, but we had none this year.
I think I may venture to say that the price of children's
dresses (not infants') is very doubtful. Babies' caps do not sell
at all. That is one of the few foreign fashions that Americans
do not copy. Pretty little hoods & bonnets for such "Dots" do well.
I have mentioned all these things my dear friend, that you
may be in possession of such information as will enable you
to answer inquiries that may be made.

The introduction of speaking into the Fair was a very good
thing. Wendell spoke in the most eloquent & beautiful
manner. John P. Hale too, who has behaved so well in New Hampshire
politics spoke to great acceptance. He is a pleasant agreeable
man, & tho' but a very lazy & half abolitionist now, will, I hope go
on to perfection. — The Annual Meeting was just what an
Annual Meeting should be. There was a very great spirit of unity

and great firmness & constancy of purpose. Pillsbury of N. H. was the gem of the Meeting. I was pleased & surprised at his success. Poor dear Garrison was so ill through the fair & so in perfect recovered at the time of the Meeting that he could speak but little. He is well now. As want of good Agents is our chief difficulty, you will be glad to learn that we have a prospect of two new men from Maine. A Mr Stone, formerly an Episcopal clergyman, read one of the anti-Catholic for abolition & charity to heretics, & a Mr Talbot, a lawyer whom none of us know, but for whose fitness Stone vouches. Stone has been in the cause himself since the perilous days of 1835.

I rejoice extremely over the prospect of the abolition of the Corn Laws. As far as I understand the question at all, I am a free Trader. There is a good deal of consternation here in view of the alteration of the Tariff of 1842. I am delighted at my very heart, for fun, I really believe in the goodness of the measure & seriously, I shall delight in the punishment of Messrs Lawrence & Appleton whose vile letters about Texas you will have read. I long to pull down the cotton manufactories for which they have sold their souls. An anecdote was told at the fair publicly, but yet it seems as if it could hardly be true. Tom White told it & said he had it from good authority. Abbot Lawrence was applied to by Calhoun for a loan & the slaves of the latter proposed as security. It was accepted by Mr Lawrence who in the course of the arrangement intimated to Mr Calhoun that he (Lawrence) hoped he would modify his views of the Tariff. To this Calhoun replied in substance "not an iota." Can you wonder that the South rules the North as she does, for Mr L. is at the head of the Mercantile body of Mass. I am sorry to tell you that I have heard Mr Spencer lecture & did not like him at all. He has behaved so well on the Corn Laws that I had hoped something from him in this country, but I was mistaken. He appeared desperately afraid of his audience which was very large and a good representation of all classes in the city. Had he been at the South I might have thought him in dread of Dynick Law & Bowie knives. But in